

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 2, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 19, 2016
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 16, 2016
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1739

Introduced by Assembly Member Waldron

February 1, 2016

An act to add Section 14133.75 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1739, as amended, Waldron. Medi-Cal: allergy testing.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services, under which qualified low-income individuals receive health care services. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid Program provisions. Existing law provides for a schedule of benefits under the Medi-Cal program, and authorizes the use of utilization controls, including prior authorization, that may be applied to those covered benefits and that are reviewed for, among other things, medical necessity. Under the Medi-Cal program, a service is “medically necessary” or a “medical necessity” when it is reasonable and necessary to protect life, to prevent significant illness or significant disability, or to alleviate severe pain.

This bill would require the department to treat serologic-specific IgE allergy tests and percutaneous skin allergy tests as equivalent in their ~~sensitivity and accuracy~~ *clinical efficacy* for confirming the existence of an allergy in a patient, and to provide the same standard of coverage

for either test for those individuals with a medical history consistent with specified conditions. The bill would require the department to update its provider bulletins, as necessary, to reference the most current professional literature and guidance related to allergy testing.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 14133.75 is added to the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code, to read:
- 3 14133.75. (a) The department shall treat serologic-specific
- 4 IgE tests and percutaneous skin tests as equivalent confirmatory
- 5 tests ~~in terms of their sensitivity and accuracy, their clinical~~
- 6 ~~efficacy~~, and shall provide the same standard of coverage for either
- 7 test for those individuals with a medical history consistent with
- 8 any of the following:
- 9 (1) An inhalant allergy.
- 10 (2) A food allergy.
- 11 (3) Hymenoptera venom allergy or an allergy to stinging insects.
- 12 (4) Allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA).
- 13 (5) Certain parasitic diseases.
- 14 (6) Allergies to specific drugs.
- 15 (b) The department shall update its provider bulletins, as
- 16 necessary, to reference the most current professional literature and
- 17 guidance related to allergy testing.